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Latino Leaders Call on Mayor-Elect Brandon Johnson to Commit to Four Priority Areas to Enhance the Wellbeing of Latinos in Chicago

Letter comes from a coalition of Latino leaders from the largest Latino-serving organizations in Chicago

media interviews available

CHICAGO— Today, the Illinois Latino Agenda (ILA) sent [a letter](#) to Mayor-elect Brandon Johnson congratulating him on his victory and calling on him to prioritize community development, equitable representation, youth violence prevention, and Chicago’s Sanctuary City status to ensure a better quality of life for Latinos in Chicago. The nonprofits that signed on to this letter serve tens of thousands of the City’s most vulnerable residents in all aspects of vital social service.

The letter calls for a real commitment from Mayor-elect Johnson to address the disparities in Chicago’s Latino communities, which too often go ignored. The co-signers pledge to be a resource to Mayor-elect Johnson to help ensure his commitment to improving the wellbeing of Latinos throughout the City.

That starts with Latino representation at the highest levels of the new administration.

“We ask that you meet with our coalition in the next few days, before announcing your transition planning committees, to discuss how ILA members can serve on your transition team and ensure Latino perspectives and issues are addressed as you plan for the future of our city,” the letter states.

“Latino voters need a Mayor who delivers what is promised. A Mayor who will bring equity in job creation and placements, invest in resources for a safer Chicago, address the root causes of violence, invest resources for equitable quality of life, build culturally responsive schools (both public and charter) with quality learning, and commit to affordable and accessible housing and child care.”

The letter goes on to specify that in order to truly promote equity for Chicago’s Latino communities, Mayor-Elect Johnson will need to focus on the four priority areas listed below:

1. **Community development** - We need Mayor-elect Brandon Johnson to guarantee intentional inclusion of largely Latino neighborhoods in long-term community investment strategies.
2. **Representation** - With Latinos making up 30% of Chicago's population and accounting for over half of the population growth in the US this last decade, we want to ensure that you include equitable Latino representation in the mayor's office and in leadership roles throughout the city, and that we are considered in all policy priorities.
3. **Youth Violence prevention** - Youth violence prevention organizations need adequate long-term funding to prevent and mitigate harm, support victims, and advocate for transformational policy that heals communities.
4. **Sanctuary City** - To ensure Chicago stays a welcoming city, we need you to honor your commitment to invest sufficient and adequate resources to support new arrivals to Chicago in areas such as legal services, housing assistance, mental healthcare, as well as funding for staff to carry out this work. We also need you to engage and be a part of easing tension between communities and migrants, like the Woodlawn neighborhood that has been displeased with the migrants' housing at Wadsworth.

ILA and other signees refuse to buy into the false narrative that equity of resource distribution among communities means some communities have to give up what they are getting so others get more.

"We ask you as Mayor-elect to work with us in our commitment to building coalitions and solidarity among Black and Latino communities," **the letter states**. "There is enough for every community and you will need to build relationships and trust to pave the road to equity uplifting Chicago's rich cultural diversity."

With Latinos making up Chicago's second-largest racial and ethnic group and one of its fastest-growing demographics, members of the Illinois Latino Agenda, a coalition of 26 leaders from Latino-serving organizations, and its member organizations, Hispanic Federation, La Casa Norte, the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, and others organized a voter outreach campaign to increase Latino participation in Chicago's mayoral election. This included launching VotaYaChicago.com, knocking on the doors of 10,000 Latino households, sending 260,000 text messages, making about 130,000 calls, and placing a PSA in Spanish-language media.

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